

APPENDIX.

Report of Medical Officer of Health for 1949.

Lukis House, Grange, Guernsey, 23rd May, 1950.

SIR,

I have the honour to forward herewith the report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1949, with a request that you will be so good as to cause it to be published as an Appendix to a future Billet d'Etat.

In view of the need for economy, it is suggested that 50 copies be struck off for distribution in lieu of the usual 100.

I have the honour to be, Sir,
Your obedient Servant,

H. G. STEPHENSON,
President,

The Bailiff,
The Royal Court,
Guernsey.

Lukis House, Grange, Guernsey, 3rd May, 1950.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my fifteenth annual report as the States Medical Officer of Health.

There was again little infectious disease during the year, and the Island was fortunate that only one case of infantile paralysis occurred.

The infant mortality rate was again very low, the general death rate is lower than pre-war, and the tuberculosis death rate showed a substantial decrease on the high rate of 1948, which may be, to some extent, due to alleviation of the housing situation which still however is not satisfactory.

The appointment of two Health Visitors marked an important development in the Island health services which I hope will be extended in the near future so that a complete service of home visiting may be provided for all births and for the tuberculous.

The foods (other than milk) given in the report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector as having been condemned, were condemned either on arrival or soon after arrival, having arrived in a condition unfit for human consumption.

The standard of cleanliness of milk is good from the great majority of farms, but there are some farmers who appear to be unable to supply clean milk consistently. The States Dairy Committee have been considering the testing and grading of milk, payment being dependent on a satisfactory result of the tests.

The standard of cleanliness of ice cream on the whole is good, but in some cases owing to insufficient attention to apparatus and to the purchase of inferior materials, the standard is poor.

The clandestine dumping of refuse in unofficial dumps continues and is extremely difficult to prevent or to trace the individuals responsible.

Other important health measures are the extension of drains and water mains.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

ROWAN REVELL, M.D.,

Medical Officer of Health.

The President and Members,

Board of Health,

Guernsey.

STATISTICS.

TABLE I.

Sunshine.

Total for 1949 ...	...	...	...	...	...	2,164.1 hours.
Average for 56 years ...	...	...	...	...	...	1,887.0 „
Sunless days for 1949 ...	...	...	...	...	...	41.
Average ditto for 56 years ...	...	...	...	...	...	55.

Rainfall.

Total rainfall for 1949...	...	...	...	...	...	28.80 inches.
Average for 107 years	...	...	...	...	...	36.61 „
Average for 50 years ...	...	...	...	...	...	36.46 „
Rain days for 1949 ...	...	...	...	...	...	153.
Average ditto for 107 years ...	...	...	...	...	...	186.

Temperature.

Daily Mean Temperature, 1949	...	...	...	...	...	52.5°F.
Average for 107 years	51.1°
Average for 50 years	51.4°
Mean daily range, 1949	9.3°
Average ditto	9.1°

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TABLE II.

Year.	Estimated population to middle of each year.		BIRTHS.		DEATHS.			DEATHS under one year of age.	
			Number.	Rate per 1,000.	Number.	Crude Rate per 1,000.	Adjusted Rate per 1,000.	Number.	Rate per 1,000 Births.
1935	...	41,160	777	18.9	518	12.6	8.8	46	59.2
1936	...	41,950	708	16.9	545	12.9	9.0	42	59.3
1937	...	42,410	827	19.5	575	13.6	9.5	45	53.2
1938	...	43,015	851	19.8	524	12.2	8.5	37	43.4
1939	...	43,820	744	16.9	559	12.7	8.9	33	44.3
1940—									
Jan. - June	43,000		400	18.6	334	14.0	—	21	52.5
July - Dec.	23,976		168	14.0	179	14.8	—	6	35.7
1941	...	23,901	243	10.1	398	16.6	—	5	20.5
1942	...	23,561	262	11.1	525	22.3	—	10	38.1
1943	...	22,641	337	14.9	414	18.3	—	16	47.5
1944	...	22,408	395	17.6	472	21.1	—	17	43.0
1945	...	25,500	391	15.3	436	17.1	—	11	28.1
1946	...	38,038	872	22.9	431	11.3	7.9	35	40.1
1947	...	40,674	900	22.2	419	10.3	7.2	30	33.3
1948	...	43,179	870	20.2	445	10.4	7.3	17	19.5
1949	...	44,374	795	17.9	495	11.1	7.7	20	25.1
			ALDERNEY.						
1949	...	1,250	27	21.6	18	14.4		NIL.	

POPULATION.

The mid-year population was estimated at 44,374.

Date 1950. 44792.

BIRTHS.

There were 795 live births, males 401, females 394, a rate of 17.9 per 1,000. Still-births numbered 19, a rate of 23.9 per 1,000 live births; illegitimate births were 56, a percentage of 7.0 of total live births.

DEATHS.

There were 495 deaths, males 244, females 251, a crude rate of 11.1 per 1,000, adjusted death rate 7.7.

MATERNAL MORTALITY.

There was one death from prolonged labour, a rate of 1.2 per 1,000 live births.

Under the Ordinance "Ayant rapport aux Sages Femmes", medical aid was sought in 132 cases.

Fees to medical practitioners £437 4s. 6d.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

There were 20 deaths under one year of age, giving a rate of 25.1 per 1,000 live births; 14 of these deaths were under one month, a rate of 17.6 per 1,000.

MARRIAGES.

There were 418 marriages, a rate of 9.4 per 1,000.

CANCER.

There were 88 deaths from Cancer, a rate of 2.0 per 1,000.

TUBERCULOSIS.

There were 32 deaths from Tuberculosis, 27 pulmonary and 5 non-pulmonary, giving rates of 0.72, 0.61 and 0.11 per 1,000 respectively.

The attendances at the Chest Clinic were as follows :—

New cases of Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	26
New cases not Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	5
Attendances of old cases	...	...	...	...	177
X-rays taken	...	...	...	...	850
Notifications of Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	34

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

There were little notifiable infectious diseases during the year; notifications were as follows :—

Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	34
T.B. Meningitis	...	...	...	...	3
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	41
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	3
Scabies	...	...	...	...	5
Paratyphoid	...	...	...	...	1
Poliomyelitis	1

911 children were innoculated, 137 re-innoculated, against Diphtheria.

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INFANT WELFARE.

HEALTH VISITORS' REPORTS.

Primary Visits.	Revisits.	Cleanliness, Housing or Neglect.	Visits Accompanied by Sanitary Inspector.
240	416	16	43

From the above table it will be seen that the total number of visits from the commencement of my duties in April, 1949, until the end of the year were 715. Of these, 240 were first visits and 416 routine visits. In addition 16 houses were visited for Housing Cleanliness or neglect and 43 visits were made with Sanitary Inspectors.

The town area is fairly compact and it should be possible in a full year to complete possibly ninety per cent of all births with primary and routine visits, two visits being the lowest minimum. The service is becoming very popular and mothers are most grateful for advice regarding diet and all other baby problems.

M. DAVIES, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.

Primary Visits.	Revisits.	Cleanliness, Housing or Neglect.	Visits accompanied by Sanitary Inspector.
233	247	10	9

since June, 1949.

The figures for 1949 indicate that 795 births were registered during the year. Of these 308 were born to parents residing in St. Peter Port and 487 in the outlying parishes. Out of a total of 499 visits 233 were primary and 247 subsequent visits. This is most unsatisfactory as at least four yearly visits should be made to each baby, and as will be seen a total of 254 have received no visits whatever. Visiting quarterly would on these figures give a total of 1,948 yearly visits, this on 1949 figures alone, and this of course is an impossibility partly due to the very scattered area covered.

It must be realized that my visits are for six months only, but even in a full year's work, if an efficient service is to be obtained it will be seen that it is quite impossible to give the smallest minimum of two visits per baby. Difficulties frequently arise which necessitate several visits to a particular child, and this can considerably reduce the number of visits to other babies.

I have been very impressed by the way in which the great majority of mothers have welcomed this service which is, of course, something quite new to the greater part of them, but feel that criticism for not visiting all cases is bound to be maintained with the present number of Health Visitors.

M. GRAHAM.

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The following cases were admitted to King Edward Sanatorium :—

						<i>Deaths</i>
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	44	13	
Tuberculous Spine	..	..	..	1	—
T.B. Meningitis	..	..	..	3	—
K.L.B. Carrier	..	..	..	1	—
Tonsillitis	..	..	..	3	—
Septicæmia	..	..	..	1	1
Chicken Pox	..	..	..	1	—
Scarlet Fever	..	..	..	13	—
Erysipelas	..	..	..	1	—
Bronchiectasis	..	..	..	1	—
Burns	..	..	..	1	—
Cervical Adenitis	..	..	..	1	—
Diphtheria	..	..	..	2	—
Influenza	..	..	..	1	—
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis	..	..	..	1	—
Mumps	..	..	..	2	—
Otitis Media	..	..	..	1	—
Para-Typhoid	..	..	..	1	—
Whooping Cough	..	..	..	1	—
<hr/>					<hr/>	
80					14	

SANITATION.

Extensive sanitary work has been carried out in the Island during the year. There is an urgent need for the provision of more sewers.

WATER SUPPLIES.

The States water supply was generally satisfactory but here again extensions as soon as possible are necessary.

MILK SUPPLIES.

Very large numbers of samples have been taken and inspections made; the improvement in the cleanliness of the milk supplies has been maintained.

HOUSING.

There is at present an extreme shortage of houses; arrears are very difficult to overtake with an increasing population, due to immigration as well as natural increase..

SELECTED GUERNSEY HEALTH STATISTICS.

	<i>Infant Mortality.</i>	<i>Neonatal Deaths.</i>	<i>Still-births.</i>	<i>Pulmonary Tuberculosis.</i>
	Rate per 1,000 live births.	Rate per 1,000 live births.	Rate per 1,000 live births.	Rate per 1,000.
1937	53.2	—	37.8	0.74
1938	43.4	—	37.6	0.35
1939	44.3	—	43.2	0.62
1940	46.4	—	28.5	0.59
1941	20.5	—	20.8	1.0
1942	38.1	—	30.7	0.91
1943	47.5	—	15.1	0.90
1944	43.0	—	20.2	1.2
1945	28.1	—	23.0	0.47
1946	40.1	—	21.7	0.45
1947	33.3	—	18.9	0.54
1948	19.5	12.5	24.2	0.79
1949	25.1	17.6	23.9	0.61

VENEREAL DISEASES CLINIC 1949.

							<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
1.	Number of persons who on 1st January, 1949, were under treatment or observation for :—							
	Syphilis ..	..	..	..	..	..	29	21
	Gonorrhea ..	..	..	..	..	..	35	8
	Non-specific or non-venereal conditions ..	..					2	9
2.	Number of persons previously removed from register who returned for treatment due to re-infection :—							
	Syphilis ..	..	..	..	..	..	—	—
	Gonorrhea ..	..	..	..	..	..	—	—
	Non-specific or non-venereal ..	..	..	..			1	—
3.	Number of fresh infections during the year :—							
	Syphilis Contracted locally ..	..	..	..			5	5
	Syphilis Contracted outside the Island ..	..					6	—
	Syphilis Congenital ..	..	..	..	..		2	—
	Gonorrhea Contracted locally ..	..	..	..			11	—
	Gonorrhea Contracted outside the Island ..						8	—
	Non-specific or non-venereal conditions Contracted locally ..	..	..	..	..	..	24	10
	Contracted outside the Island ..	..	..	..			9	—
4.	Number of persons remaining under treatment or observation on 31st December, 1949 :—							
	Syphilis ..	..	..	..	..	..	37	14
	Gonorrhea ..	..	..	..	..	..	14	—
	Non-specific or Non-venereal ..	..	..	..			2	3
5.	Total attendances of all persons at Clinic during the year							764 703
6.	Number of cases admitted to hospital during the year for :—							
	Gonorrhea ..	..	..	..	..	..	1	—
7.	Number of lumbar punctures performed ..							7 4
8.	Number of injections given for :—							
	<i>Syphilis</i>							
	Penicillin ..	..	..	..	..	..	126	82
	Arsenic ..	..	..	..	..	..	296	203
	Bismuth ..	..	..	..	..	..	285	171

							Male	Female
<i>Gonorrhea and Non-specified Urethritis</i>								
Penicillin	..	..	..	..	..	..	59	33
Arsenic	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	—
Vaccine	..	..	..	..	..	..	6	—
<i>Other Treatment</i>								
Sulphonamides	..	..	..	..	..	..	15	—
Irrigations	..	Male Section only			..	..	102	—
Prostatic massage		Male Section only			..	..	58	—
9. Cases discharged during 1949 :—								
Observation or non-specific	..	..	..	..	..	..	33	2
Syphilis	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	4
Syphilis (Discharged to Mainland Clinic)	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	—
Gonorrhea	..	..	..	..	..	..	40	1

V.D. CLINIC—MALE SECTION.

The work of the male section of the Venereal Disease Clinic during the year was satisfactory. Attendances were regular and the treatment afforded was thorough and apparently successful. Complete reliance has not been placed on the efficacy of Penicillin in treating syphilis. In all cases adequate arsenical therapy has been given in addition.

The incidence of disease contracted in the Island was low. All female contacts that could be identified were persuaded to report for treatment to the female section by virtue of diligent and tactful following up by Mr. G. Austin, the Chief Sanitary Inspector. It is intended, in the future, to ask the Health Visitors to undertake this work.

There was a sharp rise in the incidence of non-specific venereal infections contracted in the Island during the year. The treatment of this hitherto intractable condition has been simplified by the recent availability of new and effective antibiotics such as Streptomycin.

It should be remembered that some cases of venereal disease are treated privately by their own doctors. It is thought, however, that the very great majority of cases are referred to the clinic. Adequate treatment and surveillance is a long and exacting process to undertake in a private surgery.

It should be mentioned that the work of the Clinic has been assisted greatly by blood tests and bacteriological investigations being undertaken by the Board of Health Laboratory, Princess Elizabeth Hospital. In all cases, results of blood investigations have agreed with the clinical findings as far as could be judged, and the Clinic has complete faith in the accuracy of the blood tests as performed locally.

One case of arsenical dermatitis occurred during the year.

J. E. T. STRICKLAND, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

V.D. CLINIC—FEMALE SECTION.

As you will see by the above figures the attendances keep up very well although there have been fifteen new cases this year, and these cases are mostly recruited from contacts due to the liaison between the male and female clinics sending each other the contacts where at all possible.

The non-specific cases are of great importance as we are getting increasingly more sent to us from our colleagues and are thus able to report back at once in any doubtful cases.

The cases of syphilis still remain the most important work of the clinic and we find very helpful co-operation from the patients, especially when you consider that they are kept under treatment and observation for at least two years or longer.

We have not yet discontinued the use of Arsenic in the treatment of syphilis as we find the results of this treatment so excellent and the reports of using Penicillin and Bismuth only still rather inconclusive.

I can visualise the clinic playing an even greater part in the Public Health Service when serological tests will be routinely taken as part of the ante-natal examination. This will wipe out in time the scourge of congenital syphilis, which brings me to the work which is at present being done between the clinic and Dr. Neubert, the Ophthalmic Surgeon, in the treatment of interstitial keratitis with massive doses of penicillin, and although up to now these results in the few cases we have done this year are most encouraging, it is too early yet to give any figures.

W. R. CAMBRIDGE,
M.O. in charge V.D. Clinic.

DEATHS
MALE.

CAUSE GROUPS.

YEARS.

	Under 1 Year	1/4	5/14	15/24	25/44	45/64	65/74	75 and over Total
A 89 Lobar pneumonia	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
A 90 Broncho pneumonia	1	—	—	—	1	—	2	5
A 91 Primary atypical, other and unspecified pneumonia ..	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	2
A 92 Acute bronchitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2
A 93 Bronchitis, chronic and unqualified	—	—	—	—	—	3	1	8
A 97 All other respiratory diseases	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
A 99 Ulcer of stomach	—	—	—	—	1	4	—	5
A 100 Ulcer of duodenum	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
A 102 Appendicitis	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
A 105 Cirrhosis of liver	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
A 109 Chronic and other unspecified nephritis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
A 110 Infections of kidney	—	—	—	—	—	1	4	12
A 111 Calculi of urinary system	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
A 114 Other diseases of genito-urinary system	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
A 121 Infections of skin and subcutaneous tissue	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	4
A 122 Arthritis and spondylitis	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	2
A 129 All other congenital malformations	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
A 131 Postnatal asphyxia and atelectasis	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
A 134 All other diseases of early infancy (defined)	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
A 135 Ill-defined diseases peculiar to early infancy and immaturity unqualified	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	6
A 136 Senility without mention of psychosis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	15
AE 138 Motor vehicle accidents	—	—	—	4	1	1	1	8
AE 141 Accidental falls	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	2
AE 146 Accidental drowning and submersion	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
AE 148 Suicide and self-inflicted injury	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	3

CAUSE GROUPS.		DEATHS FEMALE.		YEARS.								Under 1 Year	75 and over Total
				1/4	5/14	15/24	25/44	45/64	65/74				
A 1	Tuberculosis of respiratory system	..	..	-	-	-	8	2	2	-	12
A 3	Tuberculosis of intestines, peritoneum & mesenteric Glands	..	..	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
A 20	Septicaemia and pyaemia	..	..	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
A 44	Malignant Neoplasm of buccal cavity and pharynx	..	..	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
A 45	Malignant Neoplasm of oesophagus	..	..	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
A 46	Malignant neoplasm of stomach	..	..	-	-	-	-	-	6	3	9
A 47	Malignant neoplasm of intestine except rectum	..	..	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	4
A 50	Malignant neoplasm of trachea and of bronchus and lung	..	..	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
A 51	Malignant neoplasm of breast	..	..	-	-	-	1	7	1	2	11
A 53	Malignant neoplasm of other and unspecified parts of uterus	..	..	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	3
A 57	Malignant neoplasm of all other and unspecified sites	..	..	-	-	-	3	5	-	3	11
A 60	Benign neoplasms and neoplasms of unspecified nature	..	..	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	2
A 63	Diabetes mellitus	..	..	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
A 65	Pernicious anaemia	..	..	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
A 66	Allergic disorders; all other endocrine, metabolic and blood diseases	..	..	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
A 70	Vascular lesions affecting central nervous system	..	..	-	-	-	-	4	9	11	25
A 73	Epilepsy	..	..	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
A 78	All other diseases of the nervous system and sense organs	..	..	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
A 80	Chronic rheumatic heart disease	..	..	-	-	-	1	1	3	2	7
A 81	Arterio sclerotic and degenerative heart disease	..	..	-	-	-	-	3	13	23	39
A 82	Other diseases of heart	..	..	-	-	-	1	5	10	7	23
A 83	Hypertension with heart disease	..	..	-	-	-	1	2	2	1	6
A 84	Hypertension without mention of heart	..	..	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
A 85	Diseases of arteries	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1		
A 86	Other diseases of circulatory system	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1		
A 88	Influenza	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	2		

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CAUSE GROUPS.		DEATHS FEMALE.		YEARS.									
				Under 1 Year	1/4	5/14	15/24	25/44	45/64	65/74	75 and over Total		
A 90	Broncho pneumonia	..	..	3	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	7
A 91	Primary atypical; other and unspecified pneumonia	..	..	-	-	-	-	-	I	I	-	2
A 92	Acute bronchitis	..	..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
A 93	Bronchitis, Chronic and unqualified	..	..	-	-	-	-	-	3	3	2	8
A 97	All other respiratory diseases	..	..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	I	I
A 102	Appendicitis	..	..	-	I	-	-	I	-	-	-	2
A 104	Gastro-enteritis and colitis	..	..	I	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	I
A 105	Cirrhosis of liver	..	..	-	-	-	-	-	I	-	-	I
A 106	Cholelithiasis and cholecystitis	..	..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	I
A 107	Other diseases of digestive system	..	..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	I	I
A 109	Chronic, other and unspecified nephritis	..	..	-	-	-	-	-	-	I	-	I
A 116	Toxemias of pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium	..	..	-	-	-	I	-	2	-	3	6
A 122	Arthritis and spondylitis..	..	..	-	-	-	-	I	-	-	-	I
A 129	All other congenital malformations	..	..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	I	I
A 135	Ill-defined diseases peculiar to early infancy and immaturity unqualified	..	..	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
A 136	Senility without mention of psychosis	..	..	I	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	I
AE 141	Accidental falls	..	..	-	-	-	-	-	-	I	39	40
AE 147	All other accidental causes	..	..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2
		..	..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	I	I

CAUSE GROUPS.		MONTHS.											
		INFANTILE MORTALITY.											
		28 days to 2 months											
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
		Total											
A 70	Vascular lesions affecting central nervous system	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
A 90	Broncho pneumonia	I	-	-	I	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
A 104	Gastro-Enteritis and Colitis	-	-	-	-	-	I	-	-	-	-	-	I
A 129	All other congenital malformations	I	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	I
A 131	Postnatal asphyxia and atelectasis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
A 134	All other diseases of early infancy (defined)	I	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	I
A 135	Ill-defined diseases peculiar to early infancy and immaturity unqualified	-	I	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	I

CAUSE GROUPS.		DAYS.											
		INFANTILE MORTALITY.											
		Under 1 day											
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
		Total											
A 70	Vascular lesions affecting central nervous system	-	-	-	-	-	-	I	-	-	-	-	I
A 90	Broncho pneumonia	-	I	-	-	-	-	-	I	-	-	-	2
A 104	Gastro-Enteritis and Colitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
A 129	All other congenital malformations	2	-	-	-	-	-	I	-	-	-	-	3
A 131	Postnatal asphyxia and atelectasis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	I
A 134	All other diseases of early infancy (defined)	I	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	I
A 135	Ill-defined diseases peculiar to early infancy and immaturity unqualified	2	I	2	-	-	I	-	-	-	-	-	6

LABORATORY SERVICE.

February, 1950.

Board of Health Laboratory Service Annual Report for 1949.

1. Urethral, cervical and vaginal smears for Gonococci	..	..	94
2. Urethral, cervical and vaginal cultures for Gonococci	..	..	19
3. Sputum direct examination for T.B.	..	..	231
4. Sputum culture examination for T.B.	..	..	4
5. Sputum culture examination other organisms	..	..	5
6. Eye smears	..	..	6
7. Eye cultures	..	..	8
8. Urine routine examinations	..	..	77
9. Urine Deposit examinations	..	..	200
10. Urine Smears Bacteriology	..	..	22
11. Urine Cultures	..	..	124
12. Urine Urea estimations	..	..	9
13. Urine Acetone derivatives	..	..	2
14. Urine Indican Test	..	..	2
15. Blood Cultures	..	..	16
16. Blood Grouping	..	..	44
17. Blood White Cell Count	..	..	154
18. Blood Red Cell Count	..	..	253
19. Blood Hæmaglobin	..	..	319
20. Blood Vanden Berg	..	..	2
21. Blood Differential Count	..	..	197
22. Blood Sedimentation Rate	..	..	184
23. Blood for Anthrax	..	..	2
24. Blood for C. Welchii	..	..	1
25. Blood Sugar Estimations	..	..	93
26. Blood Urea Estimations	..	..	69
27. Blood Cell Volume	..	..	23
28. Blood M. CH. C.	..	..	60
29. Blood M.C.V.	..	..	69
30. Blood Widal's	..	..	36
31. Blood Others Agglutinations	..	..	12
32. Blood for Parasites	..	..	10
33. Blood Icterus Index	1
34. Blood Fragility	1
35. Blood Paul Bunnell Reaction	1

C/fwd 2350

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								B/fwd. 2350
36. Coagulation Time	11
37. Bleeding Time	7
38. Platelet Count	3
39. Reticulocyte Count	1
40. Hanger Test	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
41. Kahn Standard Test	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	121
42. Kahn Dye Test	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	374
43. Wasserman Reaction	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	364
44. Gonococcal Fixation Test	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	85
45. Throat Smears for K.L.B.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
46. Throat Cultures for K.L.B.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	92
47. Semen Fertility Tests	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10
48. Stool Occult Blood	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	23
49. Stool Direct Smears	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	18
50. Stool Cultures	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	44
51. Fractional Gastric Analysis	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7
52. Skin Examinations for Fungi	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
53. Skin Examinations for Parasites	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
54. Pus Direct Smears	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	19
55. Pus Cultures	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	19
56. Cerebro-spinal Fluid Cell Count	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	20
57. " " " Direct Smear	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10
58. " " " Chloride estimation	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	17
59. " " " Globulin	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10
60. " " " Sugar estimation	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	13
61. " " " Culture	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7
62. " " " Wasserman Reaction	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
63. " " " Total Protein	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7
64. " " " Urea Estimation	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
65. Pleural and other Body Fluids Culture	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7
66. " " " Direct Smears	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10
67. " " " Cell Count	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
68. Veterinary Investigations	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	40
69. Ear, Nose and Throat Smears	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
70. " " " Cultures	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	25
71. Urea Clearance Test Complete	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
72. Autogenous Vaccine	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
73. Milk Tests for Mastitis. Suspicious	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	28
74. " " " Positive	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	93
75. " " " Negative	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	356
76. " " " Cell Volume Ratio	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8
77. Hotis Test Positive	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12
78. " " " Negative	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	69
79. Chemical Fat	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	203
80. Cultures	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	25

C/fwd 4542

							B/fwd	4542
81.	Milk	Reductase.	Unsatisfactory	..	..	..	..	141
82.	"	"	Satisfactory..	..	..	..	..	279
83.	"	"	Good	..	..	..	..	677
84.	Ice Cream	Grading.	Unsatisfactory	..	..	..	..	46
85.	"	"	Suspicious	..	..	..	..	54
86.	"	"	Good	..	..	..	..	167
87.	Water Samples	B. Coli Presumptive.	Suspicious	..	..	..	..	44
88.	"	"	"	Unsatisfactory	..	..	..	92
89.	"	"	"	Good	..	..	..	507
90.	"	"	"	Chlorine Tests	..	..	..	1
91.	"	"	"	Typhoid Group	..	..	..	2
92.	"	"	"	Conclusive	..	..	..	11
93.	Medico-Legal	Tests	..	..	..	..	..	3
Total								6566

PUBLIC HEALTH INVESTIGATIONS.

Six hundred and forty-three Water samples were submitted to the Presumptive B. Coli Test. During the long summer and severe drought the bacteriological standard of the various main water supplies showed variations; unsatisfactory and occasionally dangerous degrees of pollution being recorded. These serious incidents were notified immediately to the States Waterworks Department Chemist, who fully appreciating their urgency and importance managed to control and avert critical situations which may have had serious repercussions. It was not possible to confirm every positive presumptive test recorded, (pressure of other work) but positive confirmation tests were obtained on those results marked C, but in any case such results signified non-effective chlorination.

PRESUMPTIVE B. COLI TESTS.

Source.	Positives.	Acid Producers.	Negative.	Total.
1. King's Mills	9	1	78	88
2. Pré de Murie	5	1	53	59
3. St. Saviour's	2	3	79	84
4. Forest Road	11	6	47	64
5. Juas	5	2	52	59
6. Jamblin	7	4	6	17
7. Reservoir	—	1	7	8

The month and source of every sample with a count of over four presumptive *B. coli*/100mls. were as follows.

March.	Forest Road.	25.	
July.	Forest Road.	180+	Juas 180+
	Jamblin.	180+ and 25c.	
October.	King's Mills.	25 and 25c.	Pré de Murie. 5c and 25.
November.	Forest Road.	17.	
December.	Forest Road.	5.	

The bacteriological grading of ice cream revealed a lower standard this year. Those manufacturers whose gradings were unsatisfactory were advised not only to constantly check their ingredients, but where possible keep their number to a minimum and use a constant formula. This is important when comparative results are being made and one particular factor under suspicion, as was the case when rancid oil from a damaged cask was incorporated in a mix under the impression that it was safe to use.

We commenced the routine chemical analysis of milk in April and 203 samples were examined; in no sample was adulteration suspected. Bacteriological tests were done on 1,574 samples received from retailers, farms and the veterinary surgeons. Tests made on retail milk direct from the farms gave a 6.7% unsatisfactory grade and allowing for the retail handling, is comparable with the 1948 figure.

Mastitis is still responsible for a number of bad recordings and general hygiene and farming practice appears to be of a low standard at certain farms. Some form of financial penalty seems the only approach to correct these offenders and legislation to this effect should be effective.

HOSPITAL SERVICES.

The local blood donor panel arrangement has operated very satisfactorily and during the year five Rhesus negative group "O" donors were placed on a special "maternity list". It is hoped to increase this number to twelve. It should now be possible to Rhesus type and cross match every case for transfusion and a routine procedure will be suggested. Diseases confirmed in the laboratory included one of severe agranulocytosis, a number of streptococcal throat conditions and a case of benign tertian malaria in a soldier from the Middle East with an apparent incubent period of four months if contracted there, or two months if contracted in England, it being assumed that the island does not harbour the *Anopheles* genus mosquito.

The laboratory has now completed the preparatory work necessary to undertake the routine investigations of suspected bacteriological intestinal infections and it is hoped that more cases of this nature will be referred to the laboratory for investigation during the coming year.

The total number of examinations this year was 6,566, an increase of 64% on 1948 figures. The numbers of blood counts, sedimentation rates, sputas for tubercle bacilli, wasserman reactions, blood urea and sugar estimations have all shown rises from 50 to 200% and, together with the total increase, no further comment seems necessary to emphasise the value of our investigations. This expansion of our activities has necessitated extra equipment, stocks and general apparatus, and towards the end of the year a laboratory technician was appointed to assist in general routine and in particular to support the bacteriological side of our work. An increasing number of out-patients are attending and the overall effect in the coming year will be cramped working conditions for the staff and patients. The amount of infectious material being handled in this laboratory is considerable and its concentration due to lack of bench space very undesirable. Together with the absence of essential privacy for confidential examinations and discussions it is hoped this unhealthy congestion will be relieved at priority level.

Yours faithfully,

H. A. WILSON.

The Medical Officer of Health,
Lukis House,
Grange,
Guernsey.

REPORT ON THE SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE ISLAND
DURING 1949.

By G, AUSTIN, A.R.SAN.I., M.S.I.A., M.R.I.P.H.H.

GENERAL.

The year under review has been a progressive one inasmuch as an addition has been made on the Inspectorial staff thus allowing the Food Inspector to devote his time solely to food inspections, which are a most important and prominent feature of our work. The teaching of food hygiene to persons engaged in food trades is to my mind comparable to that of doctors who years ago were trying to impress on their patients the benefits of anti-smallpox vaccination and, in the last two decades, the immunisation of children against diphtheria. This teaching cannot immediately be absorbed by the learner and in this aspect of food hygiene one has to proceed slowly to obtain the desired results. Co-operation with Café owners has been good and it is hoped that a full scale drive will be effective in 1950. A larger number of complaints, usually very justified, have been received from various sources regarding sanitary and structural defects and overcrowding. It is very distressing to observe conditions under which many people are at present living and due to this overcrowding it is most difficult to effect any major repairs or redecorations in houses occupied by several families. A number of houses upon whose owners closing notices have been served are still occupied and many closing notices have been withheld until a very decided improvement takes place in the construction of more new houses.

Although as I indicated in my last report meat consignments had improved, the transport of this commodity will not be entirely satisfactory until such time as refrigerated vans can again be used. The assistance given and understanding shown in connection with meat transport by the British Railways agent in Guernsey, has always been extremely valued by this department. When visiting the White Rock I frequently see quantities of imported vegetables on the quay-side and wonder why it is necessary to import such commodities in an island where much more might be grown. I may be asked the question "Why is it necessary to import milk?", and to that I would reply that it was my experience before the war to find the then popular brands of condensed milk in probably 70% of the manual workers' homes. This commodity was easily obtainable before the days of rationing and points.

From food to environmental hygiene. More and long overdue progress has been made in this department by the appointment of two Health Visitors: Miss M. Davies, who commenced her duties on 18th March, 1949, and Miss M. Graham, who commenced her duties on 7th June, 1949, and to whom we offer a sincere welcome. I feel that with these appointments, we of the Inspectorate shall be relieved of some very embarrassing situations which have from time to time arisen.

A number of bodies were removed from the German cemetery at Jerbourg during the year and transferred to the Foulon under supervision from this Department.

A number of visits to Alderney and Herm have been made during the year and a summary of the work done in Alderney will be found later in this report.

HERM.

Owing to the sustained drought, water supplies in Herm were almost negligible, with the result that effective working of the sanitary appliances could not take place. Sea water pumps were taken from Guernsey and utilised throughout the visitor season but in the absence of any responsible overseer there were times when these public conveniences were a disgusting sight. One cannot foresee the future, but if Herm Island remains as popular a playground as it has been during the years 1947, 1948, 1949, considerable additions will have to be made to the existing water storage cisterns.

In a normal season the "meadow well" might be able to supply the White House and the Tavern but, owing to the uncertainty of estimating the number of visitors, this is problematical. The existing public conveniences, too, are insufficient and the septic tanks, in addition to being in disrepair, cannot effectually deal with the amount of sewage passing through. A diversion has been made from the original septic tank and an outfall has been found on the beach several feet above high tide mark.

Number of Water Samples taken during 1949 10

HOUSING, DRAINAGE AND WATER INSPECTIONS.

	<i>Totals</i>
Routine inspections	213
Requests from Housing Authority for general inspections, including overcrowding	287
Requests from other sources for overcrowding	27
Re-inspections	308
Water supplies and drainage	297
Complaints investigated and abated	144
Sanitary defects only	101

OTHER INSPECTIONS, ETC.

	<i>Totals</i>
Public buildings and schools	32
Places of entertainment	6
Interviews	783
Drains tested	89
Work places and shops	21
Verbal agreements	54
Statutory notices served	187

FARMS AND MILK.

This important food calls for almost full time investigation if one is to be able to supply the public with clean and wholesome milk in its raw state. As is well known our famous Guernsey cattle produce milk whose reputation for butter fat content and immunity from T.B. is world-wide. This reference to butter fat content may seem rather contradictory to my remarks on the 1948 butter fat average, but it must be borne in mind that the samples taken by the Inspectors represent year by year a similar system of sampling. A large percentage of these samples are from retailers purveying bulk milk and also requests from the States Dairy for unsatisfactory readings of milks already tested by them. In the latter case, herd checks may be made in which samples are taken from each quarter of all animals in the herd. The samples are all included in our averages and obviously if a number of animals with a low fat content, whether only temporary, are checked by reason of taking four samples from each cow, the average would probably be several decimal points below the figures obtained by the Dairy. Briefly the position is, that whereas the Dairy average is for all island cattle, our average is for a section of the cattle. As will be seen in the table, sixty full herd checks were made during 1949 and twenty-seven cases of mastitis were found and treated. The co-operation between the States Veterinary Surgeon, the States Dairy and this department has produced excellent results especially in the prevention and control of mastitis. The laboratory technician's 1948 report showed a very marked decrease in unsatisfactory M.B. gradings and this is entirely due to the co-operation already referred to.

Three successful prosecutions were taken against farmers for dirty milk cans during the year and fines of £10, £10 and £15 respectively were imposed.

SAMPLES ANALYSED DURING 1949.

Formal samples	..	..	..	..	..	7
Informal samples	..	..	..	..	..	410
Fat and M.B. Test	..	..	..	..	..	417
M.B. Test only	..	..	..	..	..	654
Appeal to cow samples	..	..	..	..	..	292

MONTHLY AVERAGE OF FAT AND NON-FATTY SOLIDS.

Month	Fat		Non-fatty solids	
	<i>a.m.</i>	<i>p.m.</i>	<i>a.m.</i>	<i>p.m.</i>
January ..	4.0%	5.0%	8.82%	9.47%
February ..	4.0%	5.16%	8.88%	9.16%
March ..	4.0%	4.98%	8.94%	9.18%
April ..	No samples taken owing to illness of Analyst			
May ..	3.9%	5.1%	9.0%	9.01%
June ..	3.8%	5.16%	8.92%	9.12%
July ..	4.0%	5.33%	9.28%	9.22%
August ..	4.0%	5.2%	9.24%	9.06%
September ..	3.0%	—	8.85%	—
October ..	3.88%	5.2%	9.20%	9.17%
November ..	4.05%	5.13%	9.19%	9.21%
December ..	4.2%	5.08%	9.25%	9.20%

Average Fat Content for the year	...	...	...	A.M.	...	3.93%
Average Non Fatty Solids for the year	...	...	...	A.M.	...	9.02%
Average Fat Content for the year	...	...	...	P.M.	...	5.12%
Average Non Fatty Solids for the year	...	...	...	P.M.	...	9.17%
Percentage of Unsatisfactory Milk, i.e., Decolorised in 3 hours or under	...	...	...	...	...	13%

ENGLISH MILK.

Thirty-three samples :—

Average Fat Content	...	...	...	...	3.5%
Average Non Fatty Solids Content	...	...	...	...	8.66%

FARMS AND MILK.

Number of Farm Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	20
Farmers interviewed, unsatisfactory stables, utensils or milk	...	...	...	...	...	148
Inspections of Milk Retailers' premises and utensils	...	...	...	...	...	410
Inspections at States Dairy and Road Collection Depôts	...	...	...	...	...	130
Farms visited for Check Samples	...	...	...	...	...	123
Number of Herd Checks (Full Herd checked)	...	...	...	...	...	60
Number of cases of Mastitis	...	...	...	...	...	27

FOODS OTHER THAN MILK.

Regular inspections have again been made at the local markets of meat, fish and vegetables, also of the weekly meat consignments arriving here from the mainland. There are several improvements which could be made especially in the fish and meat markets and I hope to be able to make these the subject of a report early in 1950. With the advent of "Clean Food" campaigns everywhere and the possibility of early legislation to deal exclusively with this important subject I would remark that a set of Model Bye-Laws would be extremely helpful. Food was dumped off Saint Martin's Point on twenty-four occasions. Inspections table is as follows :—

Inspections of Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	Routine	51
Inspections of Cafés	...	...	...	...	Routine	66
Inspections of Fried Fish Shops	...	...	...	...	Routine	12
Inspections of any other food premises	...	...	...	...	Routine	56
Inspections of Markets	...	...	...	...	Routine	38
Inspections of Food, re Condemnation	...	...	...	...		173

Until such time as an incinerator may be built, condemned food is taken out to sea and sunk.

Food examined and condemned as unfit for human consumption :—

Bacon 388 lbs. 2ozs.	Meat 6,149 tins
Butter 1,301 lbs. 6 $\frac{1}{4}$ ozs.	Meat 2 cwt. 1 qr. 5 lbs.
Bovril 2 jars	Milk 6,309 tins
Beef Essence 1 jar	Nescafé 5 tins
Cheese 165 lbs.	Olives 47 jars
Cheese 137 boxes	Puddings 1 tin
Cakes 70	Puddings 10 lbs.
Chocolate Spread 3 jars	Pudding & Cake Mixtures 14 pkts.
Choc Ices 120 dozen	Paste Meat & Fish 3 jars
Cereal 18 packets	Pepper 1 packet
Cocoa 6 tins	Pickles 65 jars
Chutney 4 jars	Ryvita 1 packet
Eggs 106 dozen	Sauce 658 bottles
Fruit 187 tins	Soup 114 tins
Fruit 2 bottles	Syrup 14 tins
Fruit Juice 93 tins	Suet 478 packets
Fish 45 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs.	Spaghetti 7 tins
Fish 294 tins	Salad Cream 4 bottles
Flour 36 lbs.	Treacle 5 tins
Gherkins 15 tins	Vegetables 941 tins
Ginger Essence 7 tins	Vegetables 7 crates
Honey 1 jar	Vegetables 12 cwt. approx.
Jam and Marmalade 27 jars	Walnuts 2 jars
	Poultry 621 lbs

FOOD ANALYSED—1949.

The following samples of food were submitted for analysis to the Public Analyst and found satisfactory :—

Number of samples of Confectionery	..	..	..	..	6
Number of samples of Flour	..	..	..	..	4
Number of samples of Jam	..	..	..	..	4
Number of samples of Oil					
(determination of variety)	..	..	..	..	1
Number of samples of Evaporated Milk		..	..	..	1
Number of samples of Butter	..	..	..	..	1
Number of samples of Margarine	..	..	..	..	1
Number of samples of Sugar	..	..	..	..	1
Number of samples of Pepper	..	..	..	..	2
Number of samples of Sausages	..	..	..	..	3

ICE CREAM.

Two hundred and seventy-six visits were made during the year to Ice Cream Manufacturers and retailers and two hundred and sixty-seven samples taken of which thirty-three were imported. The gradings and percentages obtained from the analyses were as follows:—

LOCAL

Grade 1	78	Percentage	33%
Grade 2	70	Percentage	30%
Grade 3	46	Percentage	20%
Grade 4	40	Percentage	17%

IMPORTED

Grade 1	10	Percentage	30%
Grade 2	9	Percentage	27%
Grade 3	8	Percentage	24%
Grade 4	6	Percentage	18%

Grades 1 & 2 may be considered satisfactory; other grades unsatisfactory.

Samples analysed for Fat and Sugar content only and not included in the table of grades and percentages 24.

No. Manufacturers and Retailers					Retailers only				
Grades	I	II	III	IV	Grades	I	II	III	IV
I.	16	4	7	—		—	—	I	—
2.	2	6	3	4		—	—	—	—
3.	7	7	2	4		2	3	3	2
4.	5	4	4	2		3	3	—	6
5.	9	9	4	I		I	I	2	2
6.	5	5	5	3		—	—	—	—
7.	2	2	—	2		—	—	—	—
8.	3	8	4	8		—	—	—	—
9.	15	16	7	2		2	I	2	2
10.	3	—	—	—		8	8	8	12
11.	3	I	2	2		<i>Imported</i>			
12.	—	—	—	—		6	5	3	—
13.	—	—	—	—		—	2	4	6
14.	—	—	—	—		2	2	—	—
15.	—	—	—	—		2	—	I	—
<hr/>					<hr/>				
70 62 38 28 = 198					18 17 16 18 = 69				
35% 31% 19% 14%					26% 24% 23% 26%				
<i>Local Samples</i>					<i>Imported Samples</i>				
78 70 46 40 = 234					10 9 8 6 = 33				
33% 30% 20% 17%					30% 27% 24% 18%				

In addition twenty-four samples were taken for fat and sugar content but until a legal composition standard is introduced, considerable variations in nutrient value will be found. Of the twenty-four samples analysed, the highest fat content was 11.7%, sugar 20.6%; the lowest was fat 1.9%, sugar 10.3%; the average fat content was 9.8% and the average sugar content 10.3%.

WATER SUPPLY.

The year 1949 was remarkably dry and coupled with the dry winter of 1948/49 proved a very severe test for the island water supply. During the latter part of the summer greenhouse supplies were in some cases restricted but the domestic supply was constant. During the driest period fresh connections were discontinued but it is hoped that 1950 will see a substantial increase in the number of extensions to mains.

The number of water samples taken on the island during the year was 606 and are as follows :—

Weekly routine samples from States Water Mains	..	..	411
Samples taken from Private Wells	..	..	170
Samples taken from Public Pumps and Fountains	..	..	2
Samples taken from Schools	..	..	18
Samples taken from Scout Camp Sites	..	..	2
Samples taken from the Island of Brechou	..	..	3

REFUSE.

The dump at Lucksall has been practically filled and tipping has commenced on one new site, Le Catelin Quarry at L'Ancresse.

In the case of Le Catelin Quarry this was pumped free of water before tipping commenced. Several other sites had previously been explored in company with J. C. Davies, Esq., C.B.E., M.I.MECH.E., F.S.I.A., from the Ministry of Health, who expressed the opinion that while some of the sites might be suitable, sufficient covering material, soil or sand, was unobtainable. It may not be generally realised that for effective covering to prevent fly-breeding it is necessary to use a minimum of 6" of soil. It is very disturbing to find, and not infrequently, irresponsible persons creating small dumps in out-of-the-way places. These small dumps grow with alarming rapidity and it is not unknown for them to become rat-infested. I should greatly appreciate public co-operation in putting a stop to this unsightly and unsanitary practice.

The number of visits made to the official dumps during the year was 76 and visits to individual houses re unsatisfactory disposal 73.

RAT DESTRUCTION, 1949.

This subject is closely related to the previous section of refuse. "Rat Drives" practised in many places during a special week of the year, especially in farming communities, are not practised here, the reason being that a continual war is waged against these rodents. Generally speaking the public are reasonably

co-operative when requested to take specific steps to assist in the destruction of, or prevent infestation by, rats, but probably do not realise the dangers which can be caused by food contaminated by rats and the enormous amount of food lost in a single year, nor yet their breeding propensities. One pair of rats can produce nearly 3,000 descendants in twelve months or approximately 250,000 in three years. Assuming that the local rat population may be only 1,000 then descendants could amount to 1,500,000 in a year. Estimating the food damage caused by one rat at 1/od. per annum, the answer to this sum could be £75,000 which represents over thirty shillings per head of the population, or thirty-seven new bungalows at approximately £2,000 each. The annual sum budgeted for the destruction of rats is still £1,000 per annum. This provides the salaries of two Rodent Operators, the upkeep of their cars and the cost of baits, gas, etc., used during the year.

Statistics on the year's working are given in the following table :—

Number of properties visited during 1949	..	..	..	2,573
Number of visits made during 1949	..	..	..	3,383
Number of new infestations during 1949	..	..	..	154
Number of properties cleared during 1949	..	..	..	128
Additional visits made by the Superintendent	..	..	..	87

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The number of inspections made in connection with all forms of Infectious Diseases during the year was fifty-five and the number of articles disinfected in connection with all Notifiable Infectious Diseases was 3,241. Rooms disinfected number 152.

Four investigations and two disinfections were carried out for Fowl Pest and one case of Bovine Anthrax reported and dealt with.

VERMINOUS PREMISES.

The number of verminous premises fumigated and treated by other methods was 77.

ALDERNEY.

A separate report was made on the sanitary circumstances of the island in February, 1949; this is the result of inspections made between 22nd January and 8th February. The position can be briefly summarised.

HOUSING.

Nearly five hundred houses were inspected and a very large percentage found to be in need of repair. The majority have no damp-proof courses and no under-floor ventilation. Practically all are granite built, many with two-feet thick walls and clay mortar. In the St. Martin's neighbourhood many are derelict but I understand that these and others in various parts of the island are to be re-constructed by the Ministry of Works.

WATER.

There appears to be an unlimited supply of water, but storage is at present limited. It was hoped to maintain a full supply throughout the season but unfortunately this was considerably restricted in the late summer.

APPENDIX

SEWERS.

Existing sewers which are very old are part brick and part terra cotta. Subsidences have occurred in parts of the town and fractures have been reported.

FARMS.

The majority of stables were in very fair condition and well kept. A number of milk samples were taken and the keeping qualities and fat content were satisfactory.

CAFÉS.

These were clean and well kept under existing conditions. All had adequate supplies of hot water. Sanitary arrangements in one or two cases will have to be improved.

Several short visits were made during the year by various Inspectors and good work has been done, especially with the farmers. I should like to compliment the Manager of the Alderney Dairy for the efficient way in which he controls the Dairy. It was a pleasure to see the beautifully clean equipment and the excellent co-operation between Manager and staff.

THE ALDERNEY AIRFIELD.

Sanitary arrangements were considered unsatisfactory and inadequate; the water supply also, as a piped supply was not laid on and on the occasion of my first visit the two small supply cisterns on the roof were empty and consequently the toilets could not be used. The existing cesspit is too small for the number of persons using the airfield and with the advent of an increasing number of air travellers, consideration should be given to laying a water main and constructing a larger cesspit.

SCHOOLS.

The sanitary installation at the schools is unsatisfactory as it does not provide separate facilities for teachers.

The accommodation used by the scholars is badly planned and should be reconstructed.

RATS.

There is evidence of rat infestation in some parts of the island and the most heavily infested area observed was the Nunnery and environs. Signs of smaller infestations were observed elsewhere.

WATER SAMPLES.

The number of water samples taken in 1949 was 24.

MILK SAMPLES.

Number of samples taken for Fat and Methylene Blue test	..	..	17
Number of samples taken for Methylene Blue test only	..	..	68
Average Fat Content	.. .. .	A.M.	.. 4.43%
Average Non Fatty Solids	.. .. .	A.M.	.. 9.36%

